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DE RUEHKO #3265 1650234  
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P 140234Z JUN 06  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3194  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6720  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9956  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2781  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1088  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8952  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0734  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION PRESIDENT BUSH'S SURPRISE VISIT  
TO BAGHDAD - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Wednesday morning papers front-paged  
President Bush's surprise visit to Baghdad Tuesday.

11. "Bush's Visit to Iraq Aimed at Publicizing Progress"  
The business daily Nihon Keizai's Washington  
correspondent Kato commented (6/14): "President Bush made  
his second surprise visit to Baghdad Tuesday. The visit  
was aimed not only at emphasizing complete US support for  
the permanent Iraqi government launched last month but  
also at publicizing the progress in Iraq ahead of  
November's mid-term congressional elections. The White  
House is doing its best to try to take advantage of the  
political progress in Iraq and the killing of al-Zarqawi,  
which it called a 'turning point.'"

12. "Bush's Swift Move to Regain Public Support" The  
liberal Asahi's Washington correspondent Umehara  
commented (6/14): "President Bush's surprise visit to  
Baghdad Tuesday marked a swift move to play up signs of  
improvement in the security situation in Iraq with the  
goal of regaining public support for his  
administration.... A Gallup survey showed that about 53  
percent of Americans called Zarqawi's death a 'great  
achievement.' The administration hopes to sustain this  
positive public reaction. It is likely, though, that the  
security situation in Iraq will not improve as much as  
some may expect."

SCHIEFFER